**STUDENTS AT TAF ACADEMY**

**PRACTICE THESE HABITS OF MIND:**

**Critical Thinking:** Simply speaking, critical thinking involves thinking with a filter. The critical thinker approaches information using this filter to separate the true from the untrue. It is a higher-order kind of thinking that questions validity, questions assumptions, and questions judgments. It is used in problem solving, and along with analysis, synthesis and inference, leads to evaluation.

**Inquisitiveness:** To be inquisitive is to be curious in an active sort of way. The curious will wonder, but the inquisitive are more likely to turn wondering into active questioning and go from there into a full inquiry process. The curious child will wonder and perhaps ask an adult how a clock works; the inquisitive child will take it apart.

**Reflection:** The reflective mind is the one that thinks about itself. In school, the reflective student thinks about what he/she is learning and why, about how the learning process is moving along, about how he/she feels about it all. Reflection is not just aimless meandering. It is purposeful, pointed toward understanding and improving learning.

**Collaboration:** Though some valuable thinking certainly occurs in the minds of people working alone, the best minds probably do their best thinking with others. Research agrees that the synergy created within a group of people actively trying to solve a problem will lead to more accurate answers than the energy of one mind working alone. The collaborative thinker will seek out others to work with and will seek their input in response to his/her thinking.

**Creative, Imaginative, Innovative:** These thinking behaviors are listed here in combination because no one of them alone quite covers the outcomes that our culture needs. Individuals who can imagine things differently than they are, who can create something that never existed before, and who can make something concrete out of what their creative imaginations envision can free themselves from the intellectual constraints of tradition and dogma. They can change the world.

**Responsibility for Excellence:** A person who has no tolerance for mediocrity expects much of himself/herself. This person sets high standards and goes for it; he/she is unwilling to just get by. When he/she falls short, he/she does not blame others but goes forward and perseveres towards a vision of excellence.